

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-4. (CANCELED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A virus pseudo-nucleocapsid consisting of:

a viral capsid polypeptide, wherein the viral capsid polypeptide is at least the first 124 amino acids of a hepatitis C capsid protein SEQ ID NO.: 1; and

a tRNA molecule, wherein said viral capsid polypeptide and tRNA molecule together participate in formation of a generally spheroid pseudo-nucleocapsid in vitro after which no additional purification step is required.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 5, wherein said viral capsid polypeptide is a flavivirus capsid polypeptide.

7-49. (CANCELED)

50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 5, wherein said ~~eukaryotic~~ virus pseudo-nucleocapsid is formed in an in vitro array.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 5, wherein said viral capsid polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide.

52-54. (CANCELED)

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 5, wherein said tRNA molecule is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis C virus genome and flavivirus genome.

56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 5, wherein said virus pseudo-nucleocapsid is formed in an insect cell host.

57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 5, wherein said virus pseudo-nucleocapsid is formed in an Sf-9 insect cell.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 5, wherein said virus pseudo-nucleocapsid is formed in a mammalian cell host.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 5, wherein said virus pseudo-nucleocapsid is formed in a yeast cell host.

60-74. (CANCELED)

75. (NEW) A method of preparing a virus pseudo-nucleocapsid consisting of:
contacting a viral capsid polypeptide with a tRNA molecule, wherein the viral capsid polypeptide is at least the first 124 amino acids of a hepatitis C capsid protein; and
allowing said viral capsid polypeptide and tRNA molecule to participate in formation of a generally spheroid pseudo-nucleocapsid in vitro after which no additional purification step is required.

76. (NEW) The method of claim 75, wherein said viral capsid polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide.

77. (NEW) The method of claim 75, wherein inhibitors of virus pseudo-nucleocapsid assembly and disassembly are added.

78. (NEW) The method of claim 75, wherein the generally spheroid pseudo-nucleocapsid is crystallized.

79. (NEW) The method of claim 75, wherein activators of virus pseudo-nucleocapsid assembly and disassembly are added.

80. (NEW) The virus pseudo-nucleocapsid of claim 75, wherein said virus pseudo-nucleocapsid is formed in one of the group consisting of an insect cell host, an Sf-9 insect cell, a mammalian cell host, a yeast cell host, and combinations thereof.